

A Faith to Share

God's Way

By STANLEY BROWN

God's way is the only way. Jesus said "I am the way, the truth, and the life, . . ." (John 14:6). One might ask, "The way to what? The truth of what? What life? Many individuals never really stop and take an account of who God is or why He sent His son to die on the cross.

In the beginning God created man so that He could have fellowship with man. When God created man He saw what He had done and said that "it was good" Genesis 1:31. God would come and talk to this man in the cool of the evening. One day when God came to talk with man (Adam), He could not find Adam. Adam was off somewhere hiding from God because Adam knew that he was naked. The Devil had approached Adam and Eve and had gotten them to eat of the forbidden fruit. God knew what had happened. He had placed a tree of forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden. He told Adam not to eat of that particular tree. God gave Adam the ability to make his own decisions. Adam ate of that tree and because he had disobeyed God, he broke the fellowship with God. God knew that something had to be done to renew this fellowship that Adam broke. Throughout the Old Testament, one can find where God had promised to send a Savior. He sent a Savior, this being his only Son, Jesus Christ.

God still loved men even though they had sinned. He knew He had to make the provisions for man to renew their fellowship with Him. After all, He started the whole thing and He knew He had to finish what He started. God showed His love to man in many ways. In Romans 5:8 one reads "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Again in John 3:16 one reads, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." There are numerous other verses that show how God loves us as we are, but because man is sinful he still lies out of fellowship with God. Man's sins will cost man a lot. In Romans 3:23 one finds "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Also in 1 John 1:8 we read, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

God tells us in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death." This death is not only a physical death that all will experience, but it is a spiritual death that shall last forever. Again in Romans 5:12 we read about sin and death. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin: and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

Many individuals are so busy looking at others and trying to find faults in people who claim to be Christians, that they really have not stopped and taken ac-

count of themselves. They go about their merry way and live in sin refusing to see how they really are inside. They know that they talk about people who claim to be Christians and they do not want any one talking about them. If you know that you have sinned and that you are heading for a physical and spiritual death and you want to do something

about it, then read on. If you are afraid of what other people think about you and you do not feel that you need Jesus in your life then stop reading, and do something else. You would probably be wasting your time.

I said that God has a way and you can come to know His way as you read on:

God's way is through His Son, Jesus Christ. This is the answer to the question in the first paragraph. Jesus is the way for one to be forgiven of his sins. In Matthew 26:28 Jesus said "This is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for

many for the remission of sins and renew his fellowship with God." In Romans 10:9-11 and 13 Paul tells us "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith. Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. . . . For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

It is more to believing the historical point of Christ living and dying and rising on the third day. History proves this to be true. Faith is the key word. This faith according to Hebrew 11:1 "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." One must truly believe in his heart that salvation is through a free gift of God. In Ephesians 2:8,9 one finds: "For by grace are ye saved through

faith: and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast."

You can see how sinful man, that is doomed for hell, can escape this chasm by placing his faith in God for every detail of his life and by accepting this free gift of eternal salvation that God will give upon your request. In Revelation 3:20 Jesus says, "Behold I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." And in John 1:17 we find, "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."

Christ is waiting right now to come into the heart and life of each individual, who is willing to give his life to Christ and allow Christ to come into his life and take control of His life. He is waiting to enter your heart also. Won't you let Him come in today, this very moment. If you want Christ to come into your life so

that you can receive eternal salvation along with a second promise God made, found in John 10:10 "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly," then ask Christ to come into your life.

While you are sitting here in the classroom, cafeteria, squirrel park, in the student center or anywhere else you may be, just take time to realize that you now have to make as long as you live. You can right this very minute invite Christ into your life or you may very well reject Him. Whatever the choice, remember that you must stand alone on that final judgement day if you are without Christ.

Here is how God illustrates in His word as to how you can receive Jesus right now. In Luke 18:10-14 as found in the Living Bible, "Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a proud, self-righteous Pharisee, and the other a cheating tax collector. The proud Pharisee prayed this prayer. "Think God, I am not a sinner like everyone else, especially like that tax collector over there! For I never cheat, I don't commit adultery, I go without food twice a week, and I give to God a tenth of everything I earn." But the corrupt tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even to lift his eyes to Heaven as he prayed, but beat upon his chest in sorrow exclaiming, "God, be merciful to me a sinner; I tell you, this sinner, NOT the Pharisee, returned home forgiven! For the proud shall be humbled, but the humble shall be honored."

If you pray the sinner's prayer "God, be merciful to me a sinner" and really mean it, then you can rest assured in faith upon God's word that you are forgiven and Christ has come into your life at this very moment. God will keep His promise because He does not lie.

Your new adventure will be rough and long, but joyous. You will find that you will need some Christian friends, need to read God's word, and need to pray everyday in order to develop in a Christian life.

Do not worry about not having some great emotional feeling. God said nothing about one needing to have some great feeling. Just trust God with all the faith you have and walk with Him in your daily life. You will not find the Christian life an easy road to follow, but inside you can walk with an inner peace.

If you have accepted Christ, tell someone how happy you are that Christ came into your life because you asked Him to. Share your faith with others each day and live a happy life for Christ. May God bless you in your decision.



ONE WAY